



6. EUR - EC - 9 FOREIGN MINISTERS PROPOSE A NEUTRAL AFGHANISTAN

{C} THE EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS ON FEBRUARY 19 ISSUES A STATEMENT CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN AND RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS THROUGH AN AGREEMENT "WHICH ALLOWS A NEUTRAL AFGHANISTAN TO BE OUTSIDE COMPETITION AMONG THE POWERS." THE AFGHAN NEUTRALITY IDEA WAS PUT FORWARD WITHIN THE EC BY BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CARRINGTON FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH AND GERMANS. THE BRITISH SEE THE EC STATEMENT AS ALLOWING A EUROPEAN INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO KEEP THE THIRD WORLD WITH THE WEST IN REACTING TO THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN. SOVIET ACCEPTANCE WOULD RESOLVE THE PROBLEM; REJECTION IN THE THIRD WORLD TO THE SOVIET ACTION AND STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC CASE FOR A RESOLUTE WESTERN RESPONSE.

{C} WE HAVE PUBLICLY STATED OUR GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE EC-9 PROPOSAL AND HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT, WITH A PROMPT WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SOVIET TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO JOIN WITH AFGHANISTAN'S NEIGHBORS IN A GUARANTEE OF TRUE NEUTRALITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN AFGHANISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE DO NOT NOW SEE SIGNS OF SOVIET RECEPTIVENESS TO POLITICAL INITIATIVES OR ANY SIGNS IN AFGHANISTAN THAT THE SOVIETS ARE LIKELY TO WITHDRAW IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE WILL, HOWEVER, BE CONSULTING WITH ALLIES AND OTHERS ON THE COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE NEUTRAL AFGHANISTAN PROPOSAL, INCLUDING ANY TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED.

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6. (U) EUR - EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS PROPOSE A NEUTRAL AFGHANISTAN (CDS 2/27/86)

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